Operation Iragi Freedom II

"Telling the First Team's Story"

July 26, 2004

Unearth Explosives Cavalry Troops

By Pfc. Al Barrus 122nd MPAD

AL RASHID, Baghdad Like pirates looking for buried treasure, Soldiers Battery C. 3rd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment of the 5th Brigade Combat Team, assisted by troops from the C, Company 458th Engineer Battalion. embarked on a search for some buried containers

By Pfc. Al Barrus, 122nd MPAD

1st Lt. Timothy Murphy, a platoon leader in Battery C, 3rd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, holds up one of six mortar rounds found in an unearthed container.

Giveaways, Public Service Making a Difference in Iraq

By Spc. Andy Miller 122nd MPAD

ALTHAWRA, Baghdad, Iraq - There is a certain place in Al Thawra, or Sadr City, where the road collapsed because the sewer line underneath it was sinking. Headed by Company B of the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment (Task Force Lancer) of the 1st Cavalry Division, the Iraq multi-national force is working to fix this section of the sewer, along with the entire Al Thawra sewer infrastructure.

In the early morning

hours of July 13, elements of Company B headed out to the 'sinkhole' as they call it, to check up on the contractors who are working to fix this critical section of piping. The company frequently checks the projects that are under development in its area of operations. Sometimes, like on this day, they bring the tactical Psychological Operations (PSYOP) team with them.

"Our job is to provide information to the population." said Staff Sgt.

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allegedly full of explosives place Chambers had been July 21.

After hearing word from Facility Protection Service (FPS) guards who work at the Iraqi Ministry of Resources compound in Al Rashid, the battery commander knew that these weapons needed to be found.

"We saw this as a potential weapons cache," said Capt. Matt Chambers, the Battery C commander. "If it would have fallen into the wrong hands it could be used against us so we wanted to confirm or deny its existence, then dispose of them."

Having made a first hole with the help of the engineers using a backhoe, there was nothing to be found. This was inside the compound and the first known to check, but it was second hand information.

"I knew I had an FPS officer who witnessed the containers being buried," the captain said. "And he told us where to go so I decided to move on to what I considered to be a sure thing just outside the compound and we found two containers."

Iraqi dust filled the air as the engineers dug with hopeful eyes. Iraqi National Guard (ING) and field artillery Soldiers maintained security outside the compound as the treasure hunt continued.

The remnants of one container were found first. Several fragments of redpainted metal lay rusted with little evidence that it

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By Spc. Andy Miller, 122nd MPAD

Spc. James Bredwell, 345th PSYOP, gives hats and flags to Iraqi children at a sewage construction site July 13. PSYOP Soldiers were on had to disseminate information to local Iraqis, and also to gauge how locals feel about the military operations that are taking place in their neighborhoods.

Big Hole Yields Munitions for 3-82 FA

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once resembled a box for storage. No weapons or anything of interest was found at this hole, but the third search was right on the money.

The shovel of the back-hoe struck a red, twisted metal container. Though extremely misshapen, it still remained in tact. The platoon leader of Battery C, 3-82 FA, was one of the first Soldiers to squeeze into the cramped, dust-filled artifact.

"It was pretty hot and suffocating in there," 1st Lt. Timothy Murphy said. "I got my share of Iraqi sand on my uniform and body armor, but we found what we were hoping to find."

With enough flash-light assisted searching and hand shoveling inside an area only large enough to fit one person, the contents of the metal container was unearthed. The prize: six mortar rounds and one rocket propelled grenade, all in poor condition.

Sandbags were also found inside the box. It made the Soldiers wonder what the container may have been used for in the past.

"They could have been used as a bunker complex that existed prior to the war as part of the security for the sight," Chambers said. "Or it was possibly a panic attempt to cache weapons before the war, before we started bombing, or rolled through."

Whatever the truth, the weapons are no longer available to get into the wrong hands, thanks to the cooperation of the many security forces in Al Rashid, Chambers said.

"It was just a good example of ING, multinational forces and FPS all working together in a security-oriented mission to recover explosives," Chambers said. "In the hand of insurgents, [the explosives] could be used against all of [us], as well as [against] innocent Iraqi citizens."



By Pfc. Al Barrus, 122nd MPAD

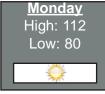
Sgt. Matthew Rhodes, Company C, 458th Engineer Battalion, inspects a mangled conex container, which was unearthed outside the Ministry of Resources compound in Al Rashid. The storage unit, suspected to have been a weapons cache, contained six mortar rounds and one RPG round.

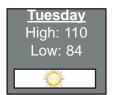


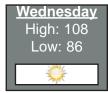
SAFETY TIP Sports

- ▶ Prior to running or engaging in any sport, make sure you:
- ▶ Warm up and stretch
- ▶ Recon running route and playing field (mark obstacles)
- > Watch for holes, dropoffs, and uneven terrain

COMMON SENSE RULES DO NOT CHANGE BECAUSE YOU ARE IN A COMBAT ZONE







Weather information provided by 1CD Staff Weather Office (SWO)

Useful Iraqi Words/Phrases
Can you help me?

MOOMkin tiSA'ADni?

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Hood Getting 5,000 More Troops

▶ From Killeen Daily Herald

City officials are looking forward to the millions of dollars an additional 5,000 Fort Hood Soldiers are expected to bring to the area. The additional troops—formally announced Friday by the Pentagon—will bring more than \$50 million to the area for construction and renovation efforts in the near future, said U.S. Rep. Chet Edwards, D-Waco in a Friday news release.

"For more than 14 years, I have had two major goals for Fort Hood: To support the troops and their families and to build up the infrastructure at Fort Hood so that one day it could accommodate additional

"The entire Central Texas area will benefit greatly."

-Fred Latham Killeen City Councilman

troops," Edwards said. "The army's announcement Thursday was a dream come true for a community that has made such incredible sacrifices during our war in Iraq."

The 5,000 troops will make their home at Fort Hood in 2005, as part of a new Army restructuring plan.

Members of the Greater Killeen Chamber of Commerce are welcoming news of the additional troops, which they expect will boost the economy in Killeen, Copperas Cove and Harker Heights.

Killeen City Councilman Fred Latham, vice chair of economic development for the chamber, said the population growth will increase sales tax revenue by 10 to 15 percent. "The Soldiers will bring more than the average person coming in," Latham said. "It won't all go to Killeen. It will be spread out to Copperas Cove, Harker Heights and Killeen."

Latham said the population increase will attract high-profile businesses.

"The entire Central Texas area will benefit greatly," said Latham. "There will be more potential for businesses to succeed."

He said the addition of troops proves that the government was listening.

Gov. Rick Perry recently pledged \$20 million in state funds to improve roads around the fort.

Public Works Top Priority for Al Thawra Area

Continued from Page 1
Joseph Smith, the team chief for the Task Force Lancer 345th PSYOP Detachment. "It doesn't matter what it's relating to. In this case it's relating to one of the public service works projects."

Public service works are a top priority for the residents of Al Thawra, Smith said. The people there have endured decades of second-rate living conditions due to neglected sewer, electrical and trash systems. Smith sees part of his job as providing these people with information about the different improvements that are occurring throughout the city, care of Task Force Lancer.

Spc. James Bredwell, a PSYOP specialist with the 345th from Franklin Park, Illinois, came along to hang a banner over the construction site. In Arabic, the banner tells local Iraqis that the sewer project was brought about through cooperation between the multi-national forces and local Iraqi Neighborhood Council.

"We want to let the Iraqi people know that yes, we are trying to do something to help them. And that this is why we're doing this," Bredwell said. "It's not for us, it's for them."

Cpt. Douglas Chapman, the Company B commander, said working with the PSYOP team is a force multiplier. Not only can they disseminate information to the locals in the area, but they can also gauge how those people feel about the military operations in their neighborhoods.

This is important information to Soldiers working in an area where some peo-

ple sympathize with religious cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, leader of the Muqtada Militia. Task Force Lancer battled with the militia in the streets of Al Thawra for over three months starting last April.

"We handed out flags, and handed out hats, and got our story out in the street," Chapman said about having the PSYOP Team with him. "That area has not been the most friendly toward us. And the last couple weeks we've kind of seen it get a lot better."

Chapman's Soldiers know its gotten better because the people are more open than they have been in the past. "A lot of what we do is execution." Smith said. "In this particular instance, it's [passing out] a hat with three simple words on it: 'peace, respect and friendship.'"



By Spc. Andy Miller, 122nd MPAD Capt. Douglas Chapman, commander of Company B, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, stands near an Iraqi boy at a sewage construction site in the Al Thawra district of Baghdad. The boy is sporting a brand new 1st Cavalry Division hat and holding an Iraqi flag courtesy of the 345th Tactical PSYOP Team.

High and Dry

Villiams Leaves the Fish

MIAMI (AP) — Ricky Williams has told the Miami Dolphins that he's retiring after just five years in the NFL, The Miami Herald reported on its Web site Sunday.

Williams said he was overjoyed by his decision.

"You can't understand how free I feel," Williams told the Herald in a cell phone interview Saturday before boarding a plane in Hawaii and heading to Asia to begin several months of travel.

The 27-year-old running back, who started his career with the New Orleans Saints, said he plans to file his retirement papers with the NFL on Monday or Tuesday. Williams told Dolphins coach Dave Wannstedt of his decision Friday and said Wannstedt tried to persuade him to reconsider. Miami opens training camp Friday.

The Dolphins acquired Williams from Orleans for two first-round draft picks in 2002, and he led the NFL in rushing that year.

Phone messages left early Sunday with two Dolphins officials Williams' agent, Leigh Steinberg, weren't immediately returned.

"I have no comment," Wannstedt told the Herald when asked about Williams' retiring.

acknowl-Wannstedt edged talking with Williams but declined to give details of their conversation. Williams said there was no chance he would change his mind.

In May, three South Florida newspapers reported that Williams tested positive for marijuana and faced a fine of at least \$650,000 for violating the league's substance-abuse policy for a second time since joining the Dolphins.

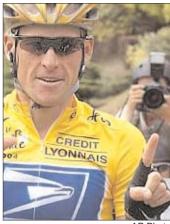
But his attorney, Gary Ostrow. told Associated Press: "As far as I'm concerned, there is no violation."



At age 27, Dolphins running back Ricky Williams is calling it a career, retiring from the NFL.

Lance Armstrong Wins Unprecedented 6th Straight Tour de France Sunday

Armstrong rode into histo-



Lance Armstrong reacts to his sixth straight Tour de France win Sunday.

PARIS (AP) — Lance ry Sunday by winning the streak since 1999 Tour de France for a record sixth time, an achievement that confirmed him as one of the greatest sportsmen of all time.

> His sixth crown in six dominant years elevated Armstrong above four champions who won five times. And never in its 101year-old history has the Tour had a winner like Armstrong — a Texan who just eight years ago was given less than a 50 percent chance of overcoming testicular cancer that spread to his lungs and brain.

> > Armstrong's unbeaten

helped reinvigorate the greatest race in cycling, steering it into the 21st century. And the Tour, as much a part of French summers as languid meals over chilled rose, molded Armstrong into a sporting superstar.

No. 6. The record. The achievement was almost much even Armstrong to comprehend.

"It might take years. I don't know. It hasn't sunk in yet. But six, standing on the top step on the podium on the Champs-Elys Dees is really special," he said.



American League East Division

W L Pct GB

	W L I C	OD	
New York	61 35 .635	-	
Boston	53 44 .546	8.5	
Tampa Bay	45 52 .464	16.5	
Baltimore	44 52 .458	17	
Toronto	42 55 .433	19.5	
Central Division			
Chicago	52 42 .553	-	
Minnesota	53 44 .546	.5	
Cleveland	49 49 .500	5	
Detroit	45 52 .464	8.5	
Kansas City	35 61 .365	18	
West Division			
Texas	55 40 .579	-	
Oakland	52 44 .542	3.5	
Anaheim	52 45 .536	4	
Seattle	37 59 .385	18.5	

National League **East Division**

Atlanta	51 45 .531	-	
Philadelphia	51 46 .526	.5	
Florida	48 49 .495	3.5	
New York	47 49 .490	4	
Montreal	36 61 .371	15.5	
Central Division			
St. Louis	61 36 .629	-	
Chicago	52 45 .536	9	

Cincinnati 50 48 .510 11.5 48 48 .500 12.5 Milwaukee 48 49 .495 13 Houston 46 49 .484 Pittsburgh **West Division** Los Angeles 57 39 .594 San Francisco 55 44 .556 3.5 San Diego 53 44 .546 4.5 Colorado 41 56 .423 16.5 Arizona 31 68 .313 27.5

Glossary W: Wins, L: Losses, PCT: Winning Percentage, GB: Games Behind

